

none was as serious as one that occurred during this battle. Hubert and a fellow soldier were assigned the duty of attracting the attention of the Japanese to distract them while the rest of his team was able to penetrate the enemy's flank. His friend was killed in the line of duty while Hubert survived, but not without debilitating injuries.

Due to his bravery and courage, Mr. Speaker, Hubert Tabor was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. This battle was brutal, but Hubert offered his patriotism to our country and fought for its sake in Burma. I would like to take this moment to recognize the incredible sacrifices that Hubert made for our country and thank him for his service to our Flag. Hubert helped to make our country great and I extend my warmest regards and best wishes to Hubert for many years to come.

TO HONOR MS. ELVIRA ORTIZ AS
A RECIPIENT OF THE 12TH ANNUAL
PROFILES OF SUCCESS
HISPANIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

MR. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a special individual who was honored for her leadership qualities and service to her community. On September 5th, Ms. Elvira Ortiz was honored by her peers at the Annual Profiles of Success Hispanic Leadership Awards presentation in Phoenix, Arizona. This event, coordinated by Valle del Sol, a local non-profit community based organization, kicks off National Hispanic Heritage Month in Arizona and is now in its twelfth year of honoring worthy individuals.

Honored in the category of Exemplary Leadership, Ms. Ortiz, of Phoenix, Arizona, was recognized for her civic activism in raising awareness of the issues that Latinos face today. She has risen to her position as Publisher and Editor-in-Chief at Ashland Media from humble beginnings, immigrating to this country from Mexico nearly twenty years ago, and has played an active role in addressing many civic issues. She was the co-founder of Cambio Magazine, a magazine addressing Latino issues in Arizona, and continues to work with Alma de la Gente's Mexican Independence Day to replicate and promote the traditions and culture of Mexican-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ms. Ortiz, who truly represents the determination of the new immigrant enriching this great country of ours with love and compassion for her family, community and profession.

THE BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF
2001 (H.R. 2941)

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, I introduced the "Brownfields Redevelopment Enhancement Act of 2001 (H.R. 2941)."

I would like to thank my colleagues U.S. Representative MALONEY, Chairman MIKE OXLEY and Chairwoman MARGE ROUKEMA for joining me in supporting this important measure.

The biggest barrier that cities and communities face when trying to acquire and redevelop contaminated "Brownfields" properties is their lack of access to adequate and affordable capital to carry out critical activities including site assessment, remediation planning, cleanup and initial redevelopment activities.

This legislation is designed to facilitate the provision of assistance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the cleanup and economic development of Brownfields.

For nearly 25 years, HUD's Section 108 Loan Guarantee program has encouraged local economic development by giving cities access to the up-front financing needed for key site preparation and infrastructure projects that make an area ready for revitalization. This bill would, in essence, improve the ability of local governments to use HUD's Section 108 Loan Guarantee program and the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) program to address Brownfields projects by recognizing one of the new realities of the redevelopment process—that environmental evaluation and cleanup activities have become a necessary part of the process for reusing old, often abandoned sites, and that the public sector frequently must jump start that process.

This legislation will modify HUD's existing Section 108 Loan Guarantee program to make it a more flexible and usable tool for Brownfields projects and provide BEDI grant funding in a more flexible form.

First, it authorizes, for the first time ever, appropriations specifically for the BEDI program, to clarify through the conventional authorization and appropriation process that Brownfields redevelopment assistance is a congressional priority. The authorization of such sums as may be necessary is for fiscal years 2002–4. This 3-year authorization would result in need for authorization after 3 years and prompt a timely congressional re-examination of the need for such funding and funding levels.

Second, it establishes the BEDI program as an independent program by separating it from the requirement that local governments obtain Section 108 loan guarantees in order to obtain BEDI grant funding. While Congress has funded the BEDI program at a level of \$25 million annually since FY 1998, the program has existed solely as a line item in appropriations. This "de-linking" of BEDI funding from the Section 108 program will help to improve its visibility as a key source of Federal funds to trigger Brownfields redevelopment activities. Additionally, it establishes the BEDI program as an independent program by separating it from the section 108 (q) economic development initiative program as a new section 123 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

Third, it increases the allowable guarantee limit for Section 108-backed loans used in conjunction with Brownfields activities—cities and states could access an additional five times their annual entitlement for Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. This provision will provide smaller communities with the opportunity to assemble a capital pool of sufficient size to cover the costs of Brownfields site

preparation. It also gives cities more practical options to pursue Brownfields reuse strategies—for example, to acquire and clean up sites themselves, and assemble them into tracts that best fit markets and uses they have identified. The increase in the allowable guarantee limit for section 108-backed loans for Brownfields activities applies only prospectively to obligations guaranteed after the date of the enactment of the legislation.

Fourth, it promotes Section 108 Loan Guarantee Brownfields activities by better addressing the developmental realities of this type of real estate development. This will be achieved by clearly identifying Brownfields redevelopment activities as eligible activities under the Section 108 program, thereby enabling the loan funds to be used for a wider range of activities that support Brownfields reuse. It also encourages communities to identify and coordinate other public and private funding sources for Brownfields projects by allowing them to count as leverage in terms of award criteria.

Fifth, it implements HUD's Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) Pilot program. The CEF Pilot is designed to use the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program in combination with the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) grant program. It is noteworthy that several years ago, HUD issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and guidelines, but failed to implement the CEF Pilot program. The CEF Pilot is designed to mitigate or even eliminate the risk of loss to a community's CDBG program inherent in making business loans funded by the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program. The CEF Pilot combines modern private sector financial engineering with privatization of much of the administration of business loans. The EDI grants are to provide a pooled cash loan reserve to cushion against losses resulting from defaults on business loans funded through the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program and reducing the risk to the community's CDBG program.

Sixth, and finally, it directs HUD to undertake a comprehensive study of Brownfields redevelopment issues on a nationwide basis. While Brownfields redevelopment has become a critical community and economic development issue over the past five years, it seems that there has not been a thorough Federal effort to collect data and analyze key issues in a manner which would serve as the foundation for Legislative and Executive branch decision-making in this area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation which will foster and promote the revitalization of American communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like for the RECORD to indicate that had I been present on Monday, September 24th I would have voted "yea" on both rollcall votes 349 and 350, the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy bill and the continuing resolution. My plane was delayed as a result of inclement weather in the Washington, D.C. area.